28

C L A I M S

1. A design supporting system that is connected
to a client terminal over a network and supports
component design that is executed in the client
5   terminal, the system comprising:
a storage device which stores a material database
for managing, with respect to each of materials,
a material name of each material, controlled substance
information indicative of a content of each of
10   controlled substances included in the material, and
discrimination information indicative of permission/
non-permission of use of the material;
a design information acquisition unit configured
to cooperate with a component design supporting program
15   which is executed by the client terminal, and acquire,
from the component design supporting program via the
network, component design information including volume
information indicative of a volume of a component which
is designed using the component design supporting
20   program;
a determination unit configured to determine, when
a material selection request relating to the designed
component is input from the client terminal via the
network, whether each of materials stored in the
25   material database is a usable material for a component
classification corresponding to the designed component,
based on the discrimination information and information

indicative of a relationship between the component

classification and usable materials for the component

belonging to the component classification;

a generation unit configured to generate, based

5   on a result of the determination, list information

indicative of a list of names of usable materials for

the component classification corresponding to the

designed component, and send the list information to

the client terminal over the network;

10   a controlled substance information acquisition

unit configured to acquire, from the material database,

controlled substance information corresponding to the

material name which is selected from the list

information by the client terminal;

15   a calculation unit configured to calculate,

based on the acquired controlled substance information

and the volume information included in the acquired

component design information, a content of the

controlled substance which is included in the designed

20   component when the material of the selected material

name is applied to the designed component; and

an output unit configured to output the calculated

content of the controlled substance as evaluation

information of the designed component.

25   2. The design supporting system according to

claim 1, wherein the output unit includes means for

determining whether the calculated content of the

controlled substance is a predetermined value or more,

and means for prompting, when it is determined that

the calculated content of the controlled substance is

a predetermined value or more, the client terminal

5   over the network to execute one of re-design of the

component and re-selection of the material.

3.   The design supporting system according to

claim 1, wherein the calculation unit is configured to

multiply the content of each controlled substance,

10   which is designated in the controlled substance

information, by the volume information, thereby

calculating the content of the controlled substance

that is included in the designed component when the

material of the selected material name is applied to

15   the designed component.

4.   The design supporting system according to

claim 1, further comprising:

a database reference request input unit configured

to receive a database reference request, which is

20   transmitted from the client terminal over the network;

and

a unit configured to provide information of the

material database to the client terminal in response to

the input database reference request.

25   5.   A program which is stored in a computer-

readable medium and causes a computer, which can

execute communication with a client terminal over

a network, to support component design that is executed
in the client terminal, the program comprising:

causing the computer to execute a process of
managing a material database which manages, with
5   respect to each of materials, a material name of each
material, controlled substance information indicative
of a content of each of controlled substances included
in the material, and discrimination information
indicative of permission/non-permission of use of the
10   material;

causing the computer to execute a process of
acquiring component design information including volume
information indicative of a volume of a component,
which is designed using a component design supporting
15   program that is executed by the client terminal,
from the component design supporting program via the
network;

causing the computer to execute a process of
determining, when a material selection request relating
20   to the designed component is input from the client
terminal via the network, whether each of materials
stored in the material database is a usable material
for a component classification corresponding to the
designed component, based on the discrimination
25   information and information indicative of a relation-
ship between the component classification and usable
materials for the component belonging to the component

32

classification;

　　causing the computer to execute a process of generating, based on a determination result of the material determination process, list information that

5　　is indicative of a list of names of usable materials for the component classification corresponding to the designed component, and sending the material name list information to the client terminal over the network;

　　causing the computer to execute a process of

10　　acquiring, from the material database, controlled substance information corresponding to the material name that is selected from the list information by the client terminal;

　　causing the computer to execute a process of

15　　calculating, based on the acquired controlled substance information and the volume information included in the acquired component design information, a content of the controlled substance that is included in the designed component when the material of the selected material

20　　name is applied to the designed component; and

　　causing the computer to execute an evaluation information output process of outputting the calculated content of the controlled substance as evaluation information of the designed component.

25　　　　6.　The program according to claim 5, wherein said causing the computer to execute the evaluation information output process includes causing the

computer to execute a process of determining whether the calculated content of the controlled substance is a predetermined value or more, and causing the computer to execute a process of prompting, when it is

5   determined that the calculated content of the controlled substance is a predetermined value or more, the client terminal over the network to execute one of re-design of the component and re-selection of the material.

10   7.   The program according to claim 6, wherein said causing the computer to execute the calculation process includes causing the computer to execute a process of multiplying the content of each controlled substance, which is designated in the controlled substance

15   information, by the volume information, thereby calculating the content of the controlled substance that is included in the designed component when the material of the selected material name is applied to the designed component.

20   8.   The program according to claim 5, further comprising:

        causing the computer to execute a process of inputting a database reference request, which is transmitted from the client terminal over the network;

25   and

        causing the computer to execute a process of providing information of the material database to

the client terminal in response to the input database

reference request.

9.   A method of supporting component design

that is executed in a client terminal, with use of

5   a computer that can execute communication with the

client terminal over a network, the method comprising:

executing a process of managing a material

database that manages, with respect to each of

materials, a material name of each material, controlled

10   substance information indicative of a content of each

of controlled substances included in the material, and

discrimination information indicative of permission/

non-permission of use of the material;

executing a process of acquiring component design

15   information including volume information indicative

of a volume of a component, which is designed using

a component design supporting program that is executed

by the client terminal, from the component design

supporting program via the network;

20   executing a material determination process of

determining, when a material selection request relating

to the designed component is input from the client

terminal via the network, whether each of materials

stored in the material database is a usable material

25   for a component classification corresponding to the

designed component, based on the discrimination

information and information indicative of a

relationship between the component classification and usable materials for the component belonging to the component classification;

executing a process of generating, based on

5 a determination result of the material determination process, list information that is indicative of a list of names of usable materials for the component classification corresponding to the designed component, and sending the list information to the client terminal

10 over the network;

executing a process of acquiring, from the material database, controlled substance information corresponding to the material name that is selected from the list information by the client terminal;

15 executing a process of calculating, based on the acquired controlled substance information and the volume information included in the acquired component design information, a content of the controlled substance that is included in the designed component

20 when the material of the selected material name is applied to the designed component; and

executing an evaluation information output process of outputting the calculated content of the controlled substance as evaluation information of the designed

25 component.

10.   The method according to claim 9, wherein said executing the evaluation information output process

includes executing a process of determining whether
the calculated content of the controlled substance is
a predetermined value or more, and executing a process
of prompting, when it is determined that the calculated

5   content of the controlled substance is a predetermined
value or more, the client terminal over the network
to execute one of re-design of the component and
re-selection of the material.

11.   The method according to claim 9, wherein said

10   executing the calculation process includes executing
a process of multiplying the content of each controlled
substance, which is designated in the controlled
substance information, by the volume information,
thereby calculating the content of the controlled

15   substance that is included in the designed component
when the material of the selected material name is
applied to the designed component.

12.   The method according to claim 9, further
comprising:

20   executing a process of inputting a database
reference request, which is transmitted from the client
terminal over the network; and

executing a process of providing information of
the material database to the client terminal in

25   response to the input database reference request.